

U.S. Army Releases Ground Combat Vehicle Request for Proposal February 25, 2010

The U.S. Army today released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Technology Development phase of the Infantry Fighting Vehicle being developed under the Ground Combat Vehicle (GCV) effort. The GCV acquisition program will follow Department of Defense best acquisition practices and be a competitive program with up to three contract awards. GCV development will consist of three phases: Technology Development, Engineering and Manufacturing Design and Low Rate Initial Production. The Army anticipates awarding the first contracts for the Technology Development phase in the 4th Quarter of Fiscal Year 2010.

The Technology Development phase involves risk reduction, identification of technology demonstrations, competitive prototyping activities, and planned technical reviews. Industry will have 60 days to submit proposals to the Army for this development effort.

The Ground Combat Vehicle effort is part of a holistic Army plan to modernize its combat vehicle fleet. This includes incorporating Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles into the fleet while modernizing current vehicle fleets including Stryker. The first Ground Combat Vehicle will be an Infantry Fighting Vehicle offering a highly-survivable platform for delivering a nine man infantry squad to the battlefield. The GCV is the first vehicle that will be designed from the ground up to operate in an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) environment. It is envisioned to have greater lethality and ballistic protection than a Bradley, greater IED and mine protection than an MRAP, and the cross country mobility of an Abrams. The GCV will be highly survivable, mobile and versatile, but the Army has not set specific requirements such as weight, instead allowing industry to propose the best solution to meet the requirements.

Prior to the release of the RFP, the Army engaged with Industry through a series of Industry Days to inform them of the Government's intent for GCV development and gain their feedback from potential contractors about GCV requirements and emerging performance specifications. In response to these initiatives we received significant feedback and insights on requirements, growth, training, test and the program at large thereby informing the requirements process and indicating the potential for a competitive contracting environment.